



Criteria for 2004 Parks NMF Projects

Due to budget reductions in the Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) as well as concomitant staff reductions in the Seattle Parks and Recreation planning staff that manages NMF projects, fewer parks projects will be able to undertaken in 2004. Due to existing NMF workload, only about ten to twelve (10-12) new NMF projects can be added in 2004, or approximately two to four at each of the three Small and one Large Project award cycles. The following criteria have been developed to focus these future projects on needed park improvements. These criteria will maintain the City's commitment toward building vital communities, while managing concerns about ongoing maintenance and operating costs associated with NMF projects.

All Neighborhood Matching Fund projects, including those that improve parks, must achieve the goal of building a stronger community. An NMF project is not just about the finished product, e.g. a renovated play area; it's also about the community building that occurs as part of the project development. This benefit should not be underestimated and is a highly valued characteristic of any project supported with Neighborhood Matching Funds. All project proposals must demonstrate this community building activity.

High Priority Capital Projects

1. High priority will be given to proposed projects that provide for renovation and improvement, but not expansion, of existing park facilities. Projects that require new maintenance and operations costs will not be considered.
2. Highest priority will be given to improvement of children's play areas, specifically those involving replacement of existing play equipment (swings, climbers, and the like) as well as associated park furniture.
3. Priority will also be given to projects that provide for other renovation or rehabilitation of existing park facilities-including park furniture, landscaping, revegetation, trails and environmental restoration. Priority will also be given to other work that will improve safety of play spaces and community gathering areas.
4. Priority will be given to community based implementation of approved vegetation management plans and trail restoration plans already prepared by Seattle Parks and Recreation's Horticulture programs.

4. In general, proposed projects in low to moderate income neighborhoods will be encouraged. Projects that implement recommendations from neighborhood plans will be supported.
5. Any Large project application must have a completed concept plan or preliminary design in place in order to be considered. This prerequisite may be satisfied with use of a Small and Simple funded project to plan and design a Large project.

Low Capital Priority Projects

1. Projects that require protracted fund raising efforts or that may not be able to be developed for some extended period of time will be given a low priority when compared to other project proposals that can readily be implemented.
2. Development of new park features or facilities will be a low priority due to the City's limited ability to absorb increased operating and maintenance costs.

Non-Capital Projects

1. Small projects for non-capital improvements, such as holiday celebrations, special events or other such community building activities, may be approved if the project proposal can demonstrate that such activities can be essentially community directed.
2. Likewise, projects such as research into preparation of parks histories or other community-based activities that are not event type activities may be considered when community building process can be demonstrated in the project proposal.

Projects that will not be recommended for an award

1. Preparation of master plans (concept plans for large sites), vegetation management plans, and trail plans will not be considered. Seattle Parks already provides for vegetation management and trail plans through its Horticulture program. However, project proposals to implement such plans will be considered (see priorities above).
2. Acquisition of new park lands will not be considered. The City Council's adoption of the 2003-04 budget directed that none of the Neighborhood Matching Fund's Large Project Fund could be used for property acquisition.

Communities interested in making application for NMF projects in Seattle parks are encouraged to contact Pam Kliment, Seattle Parks and Recreation neighborhood planner at 684-7556 in order to answer any questions about these criteria.